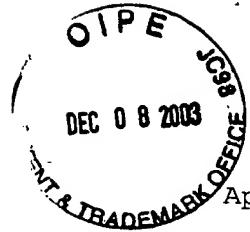


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Takashi OKADA et al.

Serial No.: 09/986,070 Group Art Unit: 3681

Filed: November 7, 2001 Examiner: A. Parekh

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This Reply is filed in response to the Office Action dated July 7, 2003 (Paper No. 9).